

**DMEPOS Advisory Workgroup**  
Meeting Minutes, July 8, 2004, 10:00am - 4:00pm  
Helena, Montana

**Attendees:** Frank Malek, Gene Salisbury, Evelyn Davis, Tim Craigle, Linda Roberts, Tamara Kittelson-Aldred, Cindy Ivey, Tom Mitchell, John Nygard, Lorie Lacher, Helen Edwards, Connie Olson, Duane Preshinger, Jayne Lux, Robin Homan, W.B. Mick, Lisa Guinn

## **I. Department Reporting**

Frank Malek reported that the Department continues with the EPP Process for the next Legislature (Department Budget).

Frank provided a recap of the workgroup structure to include a discussion on specialty teams working outside of the main workgroup. Frank discussed the resources available to each Team, i.e. email, telephone conferencing, meeting facilities.

Frank also reported that the July fee schedule was available on the web and that a draft program manual would be available by the next meeting with an intended January implementation date.

## **II. Specialty Team Reporting**

### **A. Adaptive and Specialized Equipment – Tamara Kittelson-Aldred**

*AAC Dedicated Devices vs. Computers:* **(Pending)** solicitation of comments and a definition of a “Dedicated Device” to be obtained from the SLP Association. Specialty team will research and provide their findings/recommendations when available.

*CMN Development/Revisions:* A group discussion opened up the need for supporting documentation specific for items being reviewed. Members expressed the difficulty in knowing what is required in proving medical necessity documentation for review. The use of video footage was discussed with the importance of filming patients in their home settings.

Frank Malek provided a proposed PA Request Form that was to be provided later to the group. The proposed form included patient assessment information to be completed by the prescribing authority of an item to be reviewed. The group took a moment to look at the proposed form that led to mixed concerns from group members expressing concern of prescribing authorities not completing the required documentation now (CMNs). Some felt that the proposed form would lead to additional difficulties in obtaining documentation for suppliers.

Frank discussed that the proposed patient assessment information came from the National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology (NCART) testimony to a US Senate Subcommittee pertaining to Medicare fraud. Frank stated that documentation is a big issue being discussed nationally and that he would like to take advantage of the discussions, focusing on what can be done in Montana to get ahead of any CMS directives.

Frank discussed the recent US District Court ruling that Medicare could not require a supplier to provide additional documentation in addition to a completed CMN in Medicare audits. Frank expressed that he had mixed feelings regarding the ruling and asked members to review the proposed form with in each specialty team for a discussion at the next meeting. W.B. Mick stated that he would provide the group with a form used by another Medicaid State Program for consideration.

B. Durable Medical Equipment - Gene Salisbury

*Commode Chairs:* Frank announced that effective 01/01/05 only shower/commode chairs with a Medicaid **line item fee** of \$1000.00 or greater will require PA.

*Seasonal Accessories:* Gene led the group in a discussion as to the necessity of seasonal accessories on wheelchairs. Gene gave an example of adjustable thoracic supports to accommodate changes in seasonal clothing. Group discussion led to the appropriateness of adjustable accessories and that they should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

*Stander CMN:* After the earlier discussion it was felt that documentation discussions need to take place among each specialty team for the next meeting.

C. Respiratory Equipment - Lisa Guinn

*Apnea Monitors:* After group discussion regarding the PA requirement for the rental of apnea monitors the group consensus was that the rental of the monitors for the first 6 months was not necessary with specific criteria for the devices. The group felt that the need beyond 6 months warranted the review for medical necessity. Frank Malek stated that the proposal would be considered and that he would provide comment at the next meeting.

*CPAP/BIPAP's:* Frank announced that effective 01/01/05 that Montana Medicaid will follow Medicare coverage criteria for the devices.

D. Prosthetics and Orthotics - Linda Roberts

Linda reported the specialty team meet and discussed prosthetic components with the Department's Medical Review Unit, resulting in a positive meeting. Linda reported that the group concluded that covers on prosthetics are appropriate and may not be requested/needed in some

instances. Department staff who were in attendance also commented on the meeting being a positive one, leading to better understandings of the components that make up most prosthetic requests.

*Arthritic Shoes: (Pending)* solicitation of comments from O & P Association. Specialty team will research and provide their findings/recommendations when available.

E. Medical Supplies - Mike Calcaterra

Frank reported that he was looking into following Medicare allowances for the billing of some supply items and that he would provide comment at the next meeting.

F. Claim Processing - Cindy Ivey

No Team Report

G. Recycling – Mary O'Connell

No Team Report

### III. New Business/Closing

Gene Salisbury stated that the DME Team would be working on child mobility criteria with Mary O'Connell and the Department. He will provide information as it becomes available.

Lisa Guinn stated that the Respiratory Team would look into additional information regarding Medicare Criteria in relationship with children, i.e. respiratory assist devices, cough stimulating devices, etc.

Cindy Ivey volunteered the Claims Processing Team to gather information related to the proposed PA Request Form for the group. W.B. Mick stated that he would get his examples to Cindy for the next meeting.

Discussions regarding the Department assisting supplier in talking to Physician groups or others in they're areas regarding DME. Frank Malek commented on such Department involvement in the Missoula area for discharge planners and therapists. Frank and Robin Homan commented on the meetings success and expressed their interest in holding such meetings in area though out the state. Lisa Guinn expressed the need for such a meeting in the Kalispell area. Frank and Lisa will work together in arranging such a meeting for that area.

Meeting adjourned.